

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 32-1 CAN 5-2

XR POL 18 CAN

FOR RM USE ONLY

MM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	1	
L	FBO	AID
3		
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
	10	
OSD	USIA	NSA
	8	3

A-154
NO.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

1965 JUN 18 AM 10 48

INFO: OTTAWA, MONTREAL, St. JOHN'S

RM/AN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

FROM : Amconsul, QUEBEC

DATE: June 15, 1965

SUBJECT : Lesage Willing to Settle Quebec-Labrador Boundary Dispute
by Territorial Exchange

REF : Our A-119, May 13, 1965

As previously reported, Quebec premier LESAGE is ready to bargain with Newfoundland to obtain a 10,000 square mile tract of land on the southern part of the Quebec-Labrador border (see shaded area on enclosed map). Quebec wants to have this land because it contains the headwaters of several rivers that flow down through Quebec territory into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This tract would be a significant asset to anyone planning hydroelectric projects on the rivers that originate there.

In exchange for this territory Lesage is willing to give Newfoundland a large but relatively worthless part of Ungava on Quebec's northern coast and the right to transmit electric power from the Churchill Falls project in Labrador through Quebec into the United States.

Some Quebecers regard this proposed trade as an unnecessary abrogation of Quebec's lawful rights. Ever since the British Privy Council gave Labrador to Newfoundland in 1927, Quebec has considered itself wronged. The official map of Quebec, published in 1956, recognizes no frontier between Quebec and Labrador, and shows the land that Lesage wants to obtain as part of Quebec's Duplessis county. Quebec has always maintained that the transfer of this tract of land was illegal because it was not part of the tract defined in Newfoundland's original petition.

Professor Henri DORION of Laval University's Department of Geography goes so far as to say that Lesage has no business bar-

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

FORM 4-62 DS-323

☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

JHM:Anton:is

Contents and Classification Approved by:

J.T. Gaspard

Clearances:

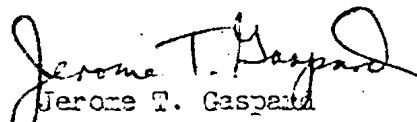
1965 JUN 13 PM 12 26

COPYFLO-PDR

UNCLASSIFIED

Page Two
Quebec A-134
June 15, 1965

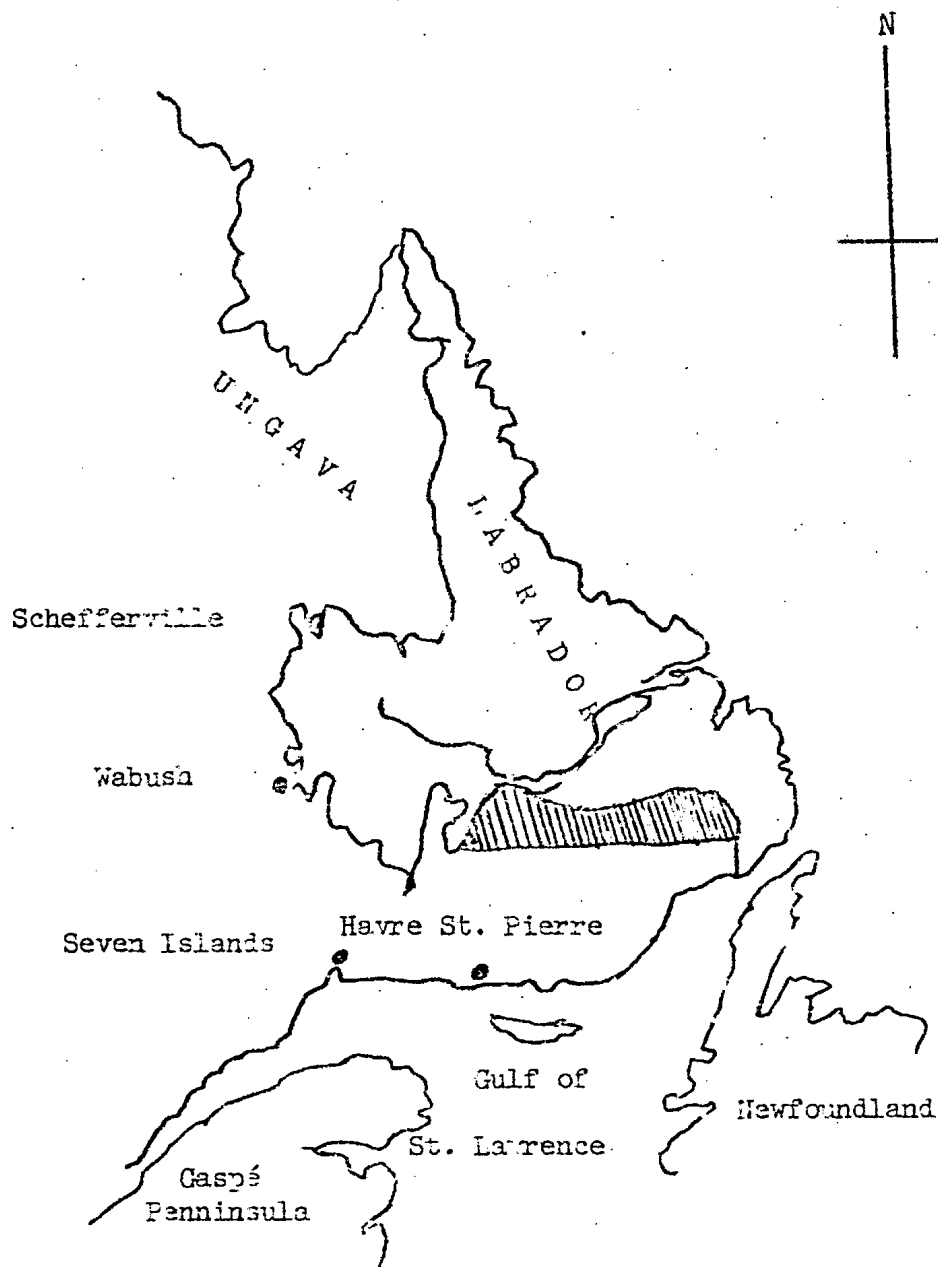
gaining for land on which Quebec already has a sound legal claim. He says that Lesage's proposed trade would mean that the southern boundary question would be settled by creating a transfer problem in the north, not through a true solution to the boundary question itself.


Jerome T. Gaspari
American Consul General

att
Enc. Map Quebec and Labrador

UNCLASSIFIED

Enc. No. 1
Quebec A-134
June 15, 1965



QUEBEC AND LABRADOR